

Psychologist's hearing in murder reset for April

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SANTA CRUZ — A preliminary hearing for murder suspect Richard Bandler was postponed Tuesday until April 13.

Key forensic evidence still is being analyzed, according to Assistant District Attorney Gary Fry.

Bandler, 36, founder of Neuro-Linguistic Programming, a popular psychotherapeutic technique, is charged with murdering Corine Ann Christensen, 31, in her Live Oak townhouse in November.

Investigators say they believe the killing was over drugs, and was not connected to Bandler's work in psychotherapy.

Fry needs the forensic evidence before he can put his case before Municipal Court Judge Tom Kelly. A preliminary hearing is conducted to determine if evidence is sufficient to order a suspect to be tried.

Investigators have said from the

start there was a third person, James Moreno, at Christensen's townhouse when she was murdered. Fry had said he hoped to have a speedy preliminary hearing because he feared that Moreno might leave the area before he could be brought to testify.

Defense attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach of San Francisco has attacked Moreno's credibility during previous court appearances. Schwartzbach has called Moreno an unreliable witness, saying he's an ex-felon and a drug abuser who suffered a head injury shortly before the killing.

Fry says tests have shown a gun recovered off Capitola Wharf the day after the shooting was the murder weapon. Anderson was killed with a single shot to the head from a .38-caliber handgun.

But, he says the forensic evidence will be crucial to his attempt to place the gun in Bandler's hand.